THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Modernising of office of DG-Shipping

2614. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made to modernise the office of the Director General of Shipping;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same systems are in place as fifty years ago;

(c) whether Government have done any study on how to convert the office of DG (Shipping) from a purely regulatory body into one which is also development-oriented;

(d) the steps that would be taken to open up the office and simplify the rules and procedures; and

(e) the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.The office of Director General of Shipping has undergone change to keep pace with the development in maritime sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) the following steps have been taken to open up office of DG (Shipping) and relax/simplify the rules and procedures:—

(i) Relaxation in provisions of 407(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 allowing movement of containers by foreign ships between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (NJPT), Mumbai to any other port in India or *vice-versa* and development of cruise shipping industry in India;

(ii) 50% fee concession and age relaxation allowed for women in maritime training;

(iii) more than 125 maritimeTraining Institutes opened in private sector in different parts of the country;

(iv) continuous up-dation of Maritime Laws to keep pacewith requirements of the International Conventions and our shipping industry;

(v) Tonnage-tax regime has been introduced with effect from 01.01.2005 which has resulted in increase in Indian tonnage;

(vi) Computerization of the Directorate and its allied offices;

(vii) Indian Database of Seafarers (INDoS) has been set up at the Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Advanced martitime Studies and Research, with a view to cater to the verification of certificates and documents possessed by seafarers;

(viii) The examination centres at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been modernised to ensure that all training and certification is carried out under a quality system duly certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

(ix) An additional examination centre at NOIDA near New Delhi, has been opened to accommodate the seafarers from the northern parts of the country;

(x) All important Acts, rules orders and circulars issued by DG(S) are available on its web site.

Production of traditional items by MNCs

2615. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MNCs have also ventured into manufacturing things that have been traditionally undertaken by small scale industries;

(b) If so, whether Government have ascertained the extent to which the small scale industries suffer due to this competition from MNCs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide competitive edge to SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the notification issued by the Central Government in